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SRI S. NARAYANAPPA :—" At least will the Hon. Minister tour my constituency, Sir? The Famine Commissioner, whenever he visits a district, does not go to the interior to verify facts."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This has nothing to do with the present question. A separate question may be put."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" In view of the fact that famine is prevalent for the past four or five years in Salem, will the Government consider the desirability of declaring Salem as a famine area at least now? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " Salem has ceased to be a famine area. I do not know why the hon. Member wants to drag Salem into the famine area."

SRI N. SIVARAJ:—" ஸார், திருச்செங்கோடு தாலூகாவில் எடுக்கப் பட்ட கஞ்சித் தொட்டிகளைத் திறப்பதற்கு சர்க்காருக்கு உத்தேசம் இருக்கிறதா என்று நான் கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " Yes, if it is necessary it will be done."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Out of his own experience, one of the M.L.As. has now complained that Famine Commissioner, whenever he visits a famine district, does not go to the interior of the district, where famine is prevalent in an acute form, to verify the facts of the case. I would like to know whether the Famine Commissioner did or did not do so in Salem district also? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " Whenever he visits a district, he visits all places which are supposed to be famine-stricken."

SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU :—" Sri, the Famine Commissioner after his tour of the famine areas in the State has recommended certain steps to be taken to relieve the distress. May I know, Sir, how many of those recommendations have been implemented? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " To the largest extent possible, Sir."

Investigation into the death of Changarath Unnimaya Amma of Ponnani taluk.

* 592 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are aware of the suicide committed by Changarath Unnimaya Amma of Mala amsam, Ponnani taluk, with her two children, and that police inquest has recorded starvation as the cause for suicide?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Reports received in this case show that the woman, wife of a Madras tea-shop keeper, became widowed and for some time lived with her

brother in Ponnani taluk who was also poor and that she committed suicide being tired of a life of poverty and dependance. The inquest verdict was suicide as she had none to support her and her children after her husband's death.''

DR. K. B. MENON :—'' As the incident referred to happened in my constituency, will the Government please conduct an enquiry whether the head constable did blackmail the brother of the deceased.''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—'' Sir, it was because the hon. Member brought this to my attention, I made very special enquiries in the matter. I think the allegation of blackmail is not correct.''

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—'' Is it not a fact that for the past one year econmic distress, poverty and unemployment are on the increase in Malabar resulting in starvation deaths often and may I know whether the Government are taking any steps to prevent such occurrences? ''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' How does this arise out of the present question? This question refers to a specific case of death. The hon. Member may put a separate question.'

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—'' May I know whether the Government have taken steps to take care of the two children of the deceased.''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—'' Sir, it is quite possible for each hon. Member to pick up cases of this sort from his own constituency. If Government were to accept the suggestion of the hon. Member who has just now put the last supplementary question, it would amount to Government running big orphanages everywhere. The question of taking care of the children of the deceased must be first the concern of the dependants, and the people in the neighbourhood must first show their compassion and if that of course fails, Government will have to attend to it.''

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—'' Sir, I infer from the facts given by the Hon. Chief Minister that this is the first time the Government have conceded the fact of a starvation death in this Assembly. Apart from the sympathy that the neighbours may show, will the Government take particular care of such orphaned children? ''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—'' Sir, the word '' starvation '' has been figuring a great deal in opposition literature. The position is this. Starvation may arise on account of poverty of particular persons or families, but starvation that arises out of the agricultural or supply position in the country is quite a different matter. Here the question concerns proverty and economic dependance. It is totally different from starvation death, as it is generally undersood in the columns of newspapers with reference to

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famine conditions. Here is a case where poverty has resulted in suicide. Undoubtedly our country is full of such poor people."

10-10 a.m. SRI K. P. GOPALAN:—"Have any other deaths due to starvation have been brought to the notice of the Government; and may I know the concrete steps the Government are going to take to remedy the situation?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Not only from Malabar but from all over the country opposition papers have collected the maximum number of starvation deaths and I have been able to enquire into them and I have found out that they are all cases of accident or otherwise and not the symptom of a general condition of things. As regards the district of Malabar, the economic condition of Malabar is well known and the economic condition of Salem is well known and so also of the district of North Arcot; each district has its own economic condition and as regards all these, the Government as my hon. Colleague suggested, with the help of the Five-Year Plan, are doing their best to improve the economic condition of the country."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—"Whatever be the reason for the death in this case, it has been accepted that it is due to poverty. Are the Government aware, Sir, that of late the poverty of the people in the country is increasing and hence the number of deaths due to poverty are also increasing and such things as are brought to the notice of the Government in this regard have a basis of poverty behind them and therefore, Sir, will the Government at least now take into consideration the existence of famine conditions, the rising of prices, and unemployment which are plunging the country into more and more of poverty and will they in the action that they take give due consideration to this feature in our economic condition?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Poverty is one of the most important weapons in the armoury of certain parties (Sri T. Nagi Reddy: Then let it be removed) and I think whenever the rains come and distress is likely to be reduced that party is extremely dissatisfied and fidgety and as a result of the rains, I think, we will not hear next year of this and we shall have time to consider the general question."

Opening of a Government Hospital at Turaiyur.

* 593 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any representation from the public of Turaiyur regarding the construction and opening of a Government Hospital there; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?